

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 182599 TOSEC 080279

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ORIGIN ARA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 182599 TOSEC 080279

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, OAS

SUBJECT: BRIEFING MEMORANDUM - REACTION TO OAS ACTION ON  
CUBA SANCTIONS

FOR THE SECRETARY FROM ASST SECY ROGERS AND AMBASSADOR  
MAILLIARD

1. WITH FEW EXCEPTIONS THE U.S. MEDIA (MOSTLY EAST COAST  
SO FAR) HAVE WELCOMED OUR POSTURE ON THE OAS RESOLUTION  
IN SAN JOSE TO GIVE FREEDOM OF ACTION ON BILATERAL POLICY  
TOWARD CUBA.
2. A NUMBER OF EDITORIALS CAUTION THAT PROBLEMS SUCH AS  
HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMPENSATION FOR EXPROPRIATION COMPLICATE  
THE OUTLOOK FOR U.S. CUBA RELATIONS. BUT THERE IS A DIS-  
TINCT AIR OF EXPECTATION, THOUGH EDITORIALISTS DIFFER ON  
WHETHER WE WILL MOVE FORWARD ON BILATERAL RELATIONSHIPS  
RIGHT AWAY OR LATER.
3. LATIN AMERICAN MEDIA REACTION HAS GENERALLY REFLECTED  
THE VOTE OF THE GOVERNMENTS. MOST APPLAUDED THE SAN JOSE  
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PAGE 02 STATE 182599 TOSEC 080279

RESULT, WITH THE MEDIA OF SOME ADVOCATES OF THE RESOLUTION,

SUCH AS ARGENTINA, MEXICO AND PERU, CLAIMING CREDIT FOR THEIR GOVERNMENTS. IN URUGUAY THE VOTE WAS DENOUNCED AS A VICTORY FOR COMMUNISM. BRAZILIAN MEDIA CONFINED THEMSELVES PRIMARILY TO FACTUAL REPORTING; SCATTERED EDITORIAL COMMENT FOLLOWED THE POLITICAL PREJUDICES OF INDIVIDUAL COMMENTATORS. CUBAN MEDIA MADE ONLY BRIEF FACTUAL REFERENCES TO THE VOTE, AND CASTRO DECLINED TO COMMENT TO FOREIGN JOURNALISTS.

4. U.S. BUSINESS INTEREST IN THE QUESTION OF SAN JOSE HAS BEEN BRISK. SO FAR ARA HAS RECEIVED INQUIRIES FROM ABOUT 30 U.S. FIRMS ON OUR BILATERAL AND THIRD-COUNTRY SANCTIONS ON CUBA. COMMERCE HAS ALSO RECEIVED SIMILAR INQUIRIES. IN ADDITION, THE JAPANESE, YUGOSLAVIAN, WEST GERMAN AND GREEK EMBASSIES HERE HAVE MADE INQUIRIES. EMBASSY BEIRUT REPORTS THAT IT EXPECTS MOUNTING PRESSURES FROM THE LEBANESE GOVERNMENT TO IGNORE SHIPPING SANCTIONS.

5. THE CANADIAN EMBASSY HAS INFORMALLY REMINDED US THAT CANADA AGREED NOT TO PRESS PENDING LICENSE APPLICATIONS OF U.S. SUBSIDIARIES BECAUSE OF ITS UNDERSTANDING THAT THE USG WOULD HAVE CLARIFIED ITS POLICY BY THE END OF JULY. WE REMINDED THE CANADIANS THAT WE WOULD EXAMINE LICENSE APPLICATIONS WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY TROUBLESOME TO THEM ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. WE CAN EXPECT A FORMAL DEMARCHE FROM THE CANADIANS VERY SOON. WE HAVE HAD NO SPECIFIC APPROACH FROM THE MEXICANS SINCE SAN JOSE, BUT PRESSURE ON U.S. SUBSIDIARIES IN MEXICO IS LIKELY TO INCREASE NOW. INGERSOLL

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